UNITED NATIONS E

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
LIMITED
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/L.1
26 April 2017
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Executive Committee
Third meeting
Rabat, 6-7 May 2017

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Provisional agenda and annotations

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up issues:

   (a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its second meeting;

   (b) Implementation of the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States, and the resolutions issued at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session.

   (c) Evaluation of the work of the Executive Committee.

4. Regional and global issues:

   (a) Outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

   (b) Outcomes of the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

   (c) Financing for development: progress report on the implementation of the ESCWA workplan;

   (d) Digital future of the Arab region;

   (e) Outcomes of the 2017 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development.

5. Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies:

   (a) Report of the Committee on Transport and Logistics on its seventeenth session;
   (b) Report of the Committee on Technology for Development on its first session.

6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019.

7. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme: progress in implementing planned activities.

8. Date and venue of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee.

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening session of the third meeting of the Executive Committee will convene in the La Tour Hassan Hotel in Rabat at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 6 May 2017. Given that the country chairing the ESCWA ministerial session also chairs the meetings of the Executive Committee, the third meeting of the Committee will be chaired by the representative of Qatar, the country which is currently chairing the twenty-ninth session of the Commission. The representative of Qatar will give the inaugural speech, followed by Ms. Khawla Mattar, Acting Executive Secretary of ESCWA, who will give the welcoming speech.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which apply to subsidiary bodies, states: "At the beginning of each session, once the Chair has assumed his/her duties in accordance with rule 12, the Commission shall adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda". Pursuant to that rule, the provisional agenda and annotations for this meeting will be presented to the Executive Committee in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/L.1.

The proposed organization of work will be presented to the Committee in document E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/L.2. The Committee shall adopt the agenda and the organization of work as submitted or in amended forms.

3. Follow-up issues
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/3

(a) Implementation of recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its second meeting
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/3(Part I)

The document presented under this sub-item sets out the procedures and activities undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its second meeting (Amman, 14-16 December 2016).

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress set out in this document, and offer suggestions in that regard.

(b) Implementation of the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States, and the resolutions issued at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.2/3(Part II)

The document presented under this sub-item provides an overview of the actions and activities undertaken by the secretariat and member States to implement the Doha Declaration on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Arab States, and the resolutions issued at the twenty-ninth ESCWA session.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress set out in this document, and offer suggestions in that regard. They are also invited to present progress achieved at the national level.

(c) Evaluation of the work of the Executive Committee
Visual presentation

At its twenty-eighth session (Tunis, 15-18 September 2014), ESCWA adopted resolution 320 (XXVIII) on redesignating the Technical Committee as the "Executive Committee" and amending its terms of reference, to enable it to make decisions in the period between ESCWA sessions.

Under this sub-item, the secretariat will give a presentation to evaluate the achievements of the Executive Committee and developments in its working method.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the evaluation's findings, and offer suggestions on developing the future work of the Executive Committee.

4. Regional and global issues
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/4

(a) Outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/4(Part I)

The document presented under this sub-item sets out the activities undertaken by ESCWA to prepare member States to participate in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016. It presents the preparatory activities for the Conference and its outcomes, notably the New Urban Agenda and its impact on the Arab region. The documents also considers ESCWA contributions to the regional prepartions for the Conference, and its expected role in implementing the New Urban Agenda from a social development perspective.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the information set out in the document, and offer suggestions thereon.

(b) Outcomes of the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/4(Part II)

The document presented under this sub-item sets out the activities undertaken by ESCWA to prepare member States to participate in the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016. The document reviews the workshops and other capacity-building activities organized by ESCWA on climate change in the Arab region, including preparatory activities for conferences under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and support to member States.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the information set out in the document, and offer suggestions thereon.

(c) Financing for development: progress report on the implementation of the ESCWA workplan
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/4(Part III)

Financing is a key implementation pillar of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015), a series of measures were agreed to reform global financial practices and allocate the necessary investments to face these challenges. At its second meeting (Amman, 14-15 December 2015),

the Executive Committee recommended that ESCWA present an annual report to member States on the implementation of a workplan on financing development and technical support.

The document presented under this sub-item sets out the implementation process of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and ESCWA efforts to support member States in benefiting from it.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the document and make suggestions thereon.

(d) Digital future of the Arab region
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/4(Part IV)

This document considers the digital economy and its role in digital transformation. It sets out the features of the digital economy in developed countries and their plans in this field. It also reviews the status of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in the Arab region, and the potential of Arab countries to shift towards the digital economy. The document presents proposals on formulating development policies on harnessing ICT for development, and promoting the move towards the digital economy and smart societies to achieve inclusive growth. It also gives an overview of the ISDEHAR programme prepared by ESCWA to support the transformation of the Arab region towards the information society and digital economy.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the activities programme set out under this sub-item, and make suggestions thereon.

(e) Outcomes of the 2017 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development
Visual presentation

Under this sub-item, the secretariat will give a presentation on the outcomes of the 2017 Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Rabat from 3 to 5 May 2017. The Forum's theme was "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing Arab region", in line with the theme of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York, from 10 to 19 July 2017.

The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development provides a platform for interaction and dialogue between Arab countries and development partners; and an opportunity to exchange experiences, expertise and lessons learned on accomplishments at the national and regional levels, and on future efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in view of the current situation in the region. As has been the practice in past meetings of the Arab Forum, the outcomes of the 2017 Forum will form the main contribution of the Arab region to the 2017 High-level Political Forum.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the outcomes of the Arab Forum.

5. Session reports of ESCWA subsidiary bodies
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/5

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the session reports of two of the eight subsidiary bodies of ESCWA, held in the period between the twenty-ninth ESCWA session and the third meeting of the Executive Committee. The two reports contain the recommendations made at those sessions, in addition to an overview of the topics discussed, information on the organization and documentation of the sessions and the participants. The following two reports will be submitted to the Committee:

(a) Report of the seventeenth session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics E/ESCWA/EDGD/2016/IG.1/7/Report;

(b) Report of the first session of the Committee on Technology for Development E/ESCWA/TDD/2017/IG.1/9/Report.

The Committee is invited to adopt those reports.

6. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/6

Under this item, the secretariat will present the ESCWA programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, containing a general overview of the programme, its objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for each of the seven subprogrammes, in addition to proposed activities under the regular budget and those funded by the United Nation Development Account and extrabudgetary resources. When preparing the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2018-2019, the secretariat took into account emerging priorities at the regional and global levels.

Representatives of member States are invited to review the programme of work and make comments thereon.

7. ESCWA Technical Cooperation Programme: progress in implementing planned activities
E/ESCWA/2017/EC.3/7

This document sets out progress in implementing technical cooperation activities undertaken by ESCWA since the last meeting of the Technical Cooperation Network for Knowledge Exchange, held in Doha on 12 December 2016. This meeting, aimed at reactivating the Technical Cooperation Network, covered the Network's mandate and the terms of reference governing its members' roles, in view of the new approach of the Technical Cooperation Programme based on medium and long-term planning, improving accountability, and strengthening cooperation and regional integration and South-South cooperation to support the 2030 Agenda.

Representatives of member States are invited to take note of the progress achieved, and provide suggestions on developing the future work of the Programme.

8. Date and venue of the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee

The Committee will decide on the date and venue of its fourth meeting.

9. Other matters

This item shall cover any other matters that the members of the Committee may decide to discuss.

10. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Executive Committee at its third meeting

The Committee will consider the draft recommendations made at its third meeting for adoption.